

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27 have been amended above for clarification and not for reasons related to patentability. Claims 28-31 have been added above. It is respectfully submitted that no new subject matter has been added by these amendments. Claims 1-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

The Examiner states that restriction to one of the following is required under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group I: Claims 1-7, 14-18 and 25, classified in Class 714, Subclass 794;

Group II: Claims 8, 9, 19 and 20, classified in Class 714, Subclass 776;

Group III: Claims 10-13 and 21-24, classified in Class 714, Subclass 790: or

Group IV: Claims 26 and 27, classified in Class 370, Subclass 209.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect, without prejudice and with traverse, Group III, containing Claims 10-13 and 21-24, for examination on the merits.

The restriction requirement of Group I, Group II, Group III and Group IV is respectfully traversed. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement because it is believed that the present application, and the pending claims, may be divided into two groups of claims, rather than four groups as indicated by the Examiner. Particularly, the invention suggests two methods for performing TFCI coding. The fundamental aspect of the claims in both Group I and Group II (the first Embodiment) is that puncturing patterns are set after coding TFCI bits with a sequence of 2^n symbols, and then outputting a

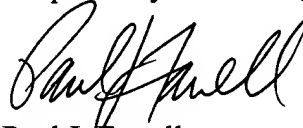
sequence of m symbols. However, the fundamental aspect of the claims in both Group III and Group IV (the second Embodiment) is coding TFCI bits with a sequence of m symbols, and then outputting the sequence of m symbols. In the second Embodiment, a predetermined value or a value generated by puncturing a sequence of 2^n symbols with a predetermined pattern can be used as the m bit sequence.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully propose that Groups I and II above can be classified into one group and Groups III and IV can be classified into a second group. No benefit is derived from maintaining the four group restriction requirement, and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement into four groups is respectfully requested. As the M.P.E.P. states, separate classification is not sufficient if the entire case can be searched at once without serious burden, and it is respectfully submitted that withdrawal of the four group Restriction Requirement is warranted, and reclassification of the restriction into two groups is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner agree with this proposed grouping of claims Applicants will elect claims of Groups III and IV, that is, Claims 10-13, 21-24, 26, 27 and new Claim 28, related to the second Embodiment. Applicants also reserve the right to file a divisional application to the non-elected claims of Groups I and II, that is, Claims 1-9, 14-20, 25 and new Claims 29-31, related to the first Embodiment.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-31, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining

matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", written in a cursive style.

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